

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 22-30 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 12 are independent claims.

Rejections Rendered Moot

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 22-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,852,651 to Fischer et al.

Without conceding to the properness of this rejection, Applicants submit that this rejection is now rendered moot in view of the cancellation of claims 22-30 from the present application. The cancellation of these claims is made without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. Rather, the cancellation of these claims is made in effort to expedite prosecution and secure allowance of the present application.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the pending claim is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that entry of the claim amendments in this Reply should be entered as a matter of right

because they cancel claims and put the application in condition for allowance. In view of this Reply, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance for the present application.

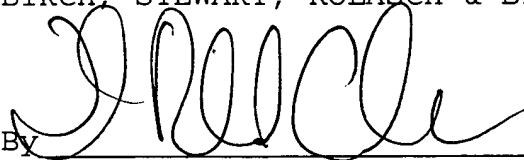
Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one (1) month extension of time in which to file a response to the Office Action. The required fee of \$120.00 is submitted herewith.

Should the Examiner believe that any outstanding matters remain in the present application, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to contact Jason W. Rhodes (Reg. No. 47,305) at the telephone number of the undersigned to discuss the present application in an effort to expedite prosecution.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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